



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/044,507	01/11/2002	Makarand P. Gore	10012194 -1	9291
7590	10/15/2004		EXAMINER	
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY			MERCADO, JULIAN A	
Intellectual Property Administration			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
P.O. Box 272400			1745	
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400				

DATE MAILED: 10/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/044,507	GORE ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Julian Mercado	1745	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2,6-15 and 19 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 3-5 and 16-18 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

This Office action is responsive to applicant's amendment filed August 16, 2004.

Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and 103

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hockaday et al. (U.S. 2001/0049045 A1).

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hockaday et al. as applied to claims 1, 2 and 19 above, in view of Vieira et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,098,477).

Art Unit: 1745

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hockaday et al. as applied to claims 1, 2 and 19 above, in view of Bauer (U.S. Pat. 4,523,852).

Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hockaday and Vieira et al. as applied to claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 19 above, and further in view of Bauer.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hockaday et al. as applied to claims 1, 2 and 19 above, in view of Beecher et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,192,984)

The above rejections have been discussed in detail in the prior Office action. The scope of the present claims is unamended from their original form. The rejections are maintained for the reasons already of record and for the additional reasons to follow in response to applicant's salient arguments.

Applicant submits that in Hockaday et al., the fuel concentration does not appreciably change, only the volume of the fuel solution changes. However, the examiner asserts that when the volume of the fuel *solvent* changes, the concentration of the fuel *solution* changes in that the dye mixture *solute* present in the fuel *solvent* is now present in a more concentrated amount. [emphasis added] This position is set forth in accordance with the well-accepted meaning of the term concentration as referring to the quantity of solute in a quantity of solution. Applicant is indeed correct that in Hockaday et al. the volume of the methanol/water solution decreases. To this extent, however, the dye mixture is asserted responsive to the fuel concentration caused by this decrease in

Art Unit: 1745

methanol/water solution insofar as the dye quantity as the solute will resultantly appear darker in the remaining solution.

It is noted that applicant has characterized Hockaday et al.'s invention as having a "nearly-constant fuel-concentration but variable-fuel-solution-volume" while the instant invention is a "nearly-constant-fuel-solution-volume but variable-fuel-concentration". While this comparison may have merit, the scope of the present claims, however, in merely reciting "a volume of the fuel solution", does not preclude an arguably variable-volume fuel solution in Hockaday et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

For the reasons detailed in the prior Office action, claims 3-5 and 16-18 are maintained objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

Art Unit: 1745

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian Mercado whose telephone number is (571) 272-1289. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick J. Ryan, can be reached on (571) 272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

*Patrick Ryan
SPE - AV1745*

[Handwritten signature of Julian Mercado]
JAM